

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~Medical~~ A medicinal skin patch for the treatment of colds by releasing essential oils through evaporation, said skin patch comprising a backing layer permeable to gas and water vapour and a hydrophile and pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer matrix connected to said backing layer, thereto and having ~~pressure sensitive adhesive properties, the latter containing the following~~ said polymer matrix comprising:

[[-]] at least one essential oil[[,]];

[[-]] at least one hydrophile polymer[[,]];

[[-]] at least one substance having an adsorbent effect or/and at least one substance having an emulsifying effect[[,]]; and

[[-]] at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer,

the water content of said matrix being less than 5% by weight, ~~preferably less than 1% by weight.~~

2. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the proportion of ~~[[the]]~~ said at least one hydrophile polymer polymer/polymers is 15 to 50% by weight, ~~preferably 20-40% by weight, in each case~~ relative to the said matrix.

3. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2, characterised in that~~ the said polymer matrix contains at least one or more hydrophile polymer polymers selected from the group comprising consisting of cellulose derivatives, ~~especially carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxypropyl cellulose, as well as~~ polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyacrylic acid, polyacrylamide, polyethylene glycols, alginates, tragacanth, gums, ~~especially karaya gum, acacia gum, guar gum, as well as~~ xanthan, carrageenan, bentonite, starch and starch derivatives.

4. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the said at least one substance substance(s) having an adsorbent effect is is/are selected from the group comprising consisting of cyclodextrins, ~~[[and]] cyclodextrin derivatives, silicic acid, and its silicic acid derivatives, as well as~~ and medicinal charcoal.

5. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the said at least one substance substance(s) having an emulsifying action is is/are selected from the group comprising consisting of sodium palmitate, sodium stearate, triethanolamine stearate, sodium

lauryl sulfate, gum Arabic, alkonium bromide, benzalkonium bromide, cetylpyridium chloride, cetyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, higher branched fatty alcohols, partial fatty acids of polyhydric alcohols, partial fatty acid esters of sorbitan, partial fatty acid esters of polyoxyethylene sorbitan, sorbitol ether of polyoxyethylene, fatty acid esters of polyoxyethylene, fatty alcohol ethers of polyoxyethylene, fatty acid esters of saccharose, fatty acid esters of polyglycerol, lecithin and complex emulsifiers.

6. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the overall proportion of [[the]] said at least one substance ~~substances~~ having an emulsifying effect is 0.1 to 40% by weight, preferably 1 to 30% by weight, especially preferably 5 to 20% by weight, each relative to [[the]] said polymer matrix.

7. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the~~ said at least one essential oil is ~~oil(s) is/are~~ selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of eucalyptol (cineol), menthol, thymol, borneol, bisabolol, mint oil, peppermint oil, spearmint oil, eucalyptus oil, camphor, turpentine oil, pine-needle oil, anise oil, fennel oil, thyme oil, rosemary oil, camomile oil and clove oil, ~~a combination of menthol, camphor and pine oil being especially preferred.~~

8. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the overall proportion of [[the]] said at least one essential oil ~~oil/oils~~ is 5 to 25% by weight, preferably 10 to 20% by weight, ~~in each case~~ relative to [[the]] said polymer matrix.

9. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the proportion of [[the]] said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer ~~polymer/polymers~~ is 5 to 60% by weight, preferably 5 to 40% by weight, each relative to [[the]] said polymer matrix.

10. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 9, wherein ~~characterised in that the~~ said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer ~~polymer(s) is/are~~ is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polydimethyl siloxane, polyvinyl acetate, polyisobutene, polyisobutylene, S-I-S block copolymers, polyterpenes, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, rubber and synthetic rubbers.

11. (currently amended) [[Skin]] The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the~~ said polymer matrix contains

additional adjuvants, ~~preferably moisturizers or/and antifoaming agents, with and wherein~~ the proportion of said adjuvants ~~preferably amounting to is~~ 1 to 50% by weight, ~~especially 5 to 30% by weight.~~

12. (currently amended) ~~[[Skin]]~~ The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix includes a skin-facing surface, said ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the~~ skin-facing surface of the polymer matrix ~~[[is]]~~ being covered with a detachable protective layer.

13. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the production of a medical skin patch comprising a backing layer permeable to gas and water vapour and a hydrophile, pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer matrix with a content of at least one essential oil for the treatment of colds, said process comprising the following steps:

(a) producing a coating compound containing a group of the below mentioned components[[,]] by mixing said group of components, said group of components comprising:

[[-]] at least one essential oil[[,]];

[[-]] at least one hydrophile polymer[[,]];

[[-]] at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer in a nonaqueous solvent[[,]]; and

[[-]] at least one substance having an adsorbent effect or/and at least one substance having an emulsifying effect;

(b) coating ~~[[the]]~~ said compound onto ~~[[a]]~~ said backing layer permeable to gas and water vapour;

(c) leaving said backing layer to dry or solidify, ~~thereby obtaining to obtain~~ the polymer matrix; and

(d) punching out or cutting out ~~[[of]]~~ individual patches.

14. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 13, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ at least step (a) is performed ~~[[with]]~~ under cooling, ~~preferably at temperatures below 15 °C, especially at temperatures below 10 °C.~~

15. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 13, ~~wherein or 14, characterised in that the~~ said coating compound produced in step (a) remains processible for a period of at least 3 hours h, ~~preferably at least 5 h, and with particular preference for a period of at least 8 h,~~ following ~~[[its]]~~ production.

16. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 13, wherein ~~any one of claims 13 to 15, characterised in that~~ the proportion of said at least one ~~[[the]]~~

hydrophile ~~polymer~~ ~~polymer/polymer~~s in the coating compound is 15 to 50% by weight, ~~preferably 20-40% by weight.~~

17. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 13, wherein to 16, characterised in that~~ the overall proportion of ~~the substance(s) said at least one substance~~ having an emulsifying effect or/and of ~~the substance(s) said at least one substance~~ having an adsorbent effect contained in the coating compound is 0.1 to 40% by weight, ~~preferably 1 to 30% by weight, especially preferably 5 to 20% by weight.~~

18. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 13, wherein to 17, characterised in that~~ the overall proportion of ~~[[the]] said at least one essential oil~~ ~~oil(s)~~ in the coating mass is 5 to 25% by weight, ~~preferably 10 to 20% by weight.~~

19. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 13, wherein to 18, characterised in that~~ the proportion of ~~[[the]] said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer~~ ~~polymer/polymer~~s in the coating compound is 5 to 60% by weight, ~~especially preferably 5 to 40% by weight.~~

20. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 13, further comprising the step of admixing to 19, characterised in that~~ additional adjuvants ~~are admixed~~ to the coating compound, ~~preferably moisturizers or/and anti-foaming agents,~~ the proportion of ~~[[these]] said adjuvants preferably~~ being 1 to 50% by weight, ~~especially 5 to 30% by weight.~~

21. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 13, wherein said polymer matrix includes an adhesive surface, said to 20, characterised in that the~~ adhesive surface of the polymer matrix ~~[[is]] being~~ covered with a detachable protective layer.

22. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 13, wherein to 21, characterised in that the~~ said coating compound contains the following components:

[[-]] 30 to 40% by weight of polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive solution[[,]];

[[-]] 0.1 to 1% by weight of Al-acetylacetonate[[,]];

[[-]] 20 to 40% by weight of said at least one hydrophile polymer, ~~polymer(s)~~, preferably karaya-gum,

[[-]] 1 to 10% by weight of said at least one substance ~~a substance/substances~~ having an emulsifying effect, ~~preferably Tween-80,~~

[[-]] 0.5 to 10% by weight of said antifoaming agent[[,]]; and

[[-]] 5 to 20% by weight of said at least one essential oil; ~~oil(s), preferably a combination of camphor, menthol and pine oil,~~

the sum of the proportions of the individual components always being 100% by weight.

23. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 13, wherein to 22,~~ characterised in that the said coating compound contains the following components:

[[-]] 5% to 10% by weight of polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive solution[[,]];

[[-]] 20 to 35% by weight of glycerol (anhydrous) [[,]];

[[-]] 15 to 25% by weight of propylene glycol[[,]];

[[-]] 10 to 20% by weight of said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect; ~~substance(s), preferably a combination of silicic acid and hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin,~~

[[-]] 15 to 25% by weight of said at least one hydrophile polymer; and ~~polymer(s), preferably karaya gum,~~

[[-]] 5 to 20% by weight of said at least one essential oil; ~~oil(s), preferably a combination of camphor, menthol and pine oil,~~

the sum of the proportions of the individual components always amounting to 100% by weight.

24. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of treating colds, wherein a skin patch according to claim ~~any one of claims 1~~ 1 ~~[[to 12]]~~ or a skin patch produced according to ~~any one of the processes described in any one of claims~~ the process of claim 13 ~~[[to 23]]~~ is adhered to the diseased person's skin in the region of the chest, the back, the forehead, the neck or the nape[[, thus]] for enabling a continuous release of ~~the said~~ essential oils by evaporation as well as the subsequent uptake of the evaporated essential oils ~~[[via]]~~ by the person's nose or mouth by way of inhalation.

25. (new) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein the water content of said matrix is less than 1% by weight.

26. (new) The skin patch according to claim 2, wherein the proportion of said at least one hydrophile polymer is 20-40% by weight relative to said matrix.

27. (new) The patch according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose derivatives are selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose and carboxypropyl

cellulose and said gums are selected from the group consisting of karaya gum, acacia gum and guar gum.

28. (new) The skin patch according to claim 6, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect is 1 to 30% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

29. (new) The skin patch according to claim 28, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect is 5 to 20% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

30. (new) The skin patch according to claim 7, wherein said at least one essential oil is a combination of menthol, camphor and pine oil.

31. (new) The skin patch according to claim 8, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one essential oil is 10 to 20% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

32. (new) The skin patch according to claim 9, wherein the proportion of said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer is 5 to 40% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

33. (new) The skin patch according to claim 11, wherein said additional adjuvants are at least one of moisturizers and antifoaming agents, and wherein the proportion of said adjuvants is 5 to 30% by weight.

34. (new) The process according to claim 14, wherein at least step (a) is performed at temperatures below 10 °C.

35. (new) The process according to claim 15, wherein said coating compound produced in step (a) remains processible for a period of at least 5 hours following production.

36. (new) The process according to claim 35, wherein said coating compound produced in step (a) remains processible for a period of at least 8 hours following production.

37. (new) The process according to claim 16, wherein the proportion of said at least one hydrophile polymer in the coating compound is 20-40% by weight.

38. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect or/and of said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect contained in the coating compound is 1 to 30% by weight.

39. (new) The process according to claim 38, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect or/and of said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect contained in the coating compound is 5 to 20% by weight.

40. (new) The process according to claim 18, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one essential oil in the coating mass is 10 to 20% by weight.

41. (new) The process according to claim 19, wherein the proportion of said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer in the coating compound is 5 to 40% by weight.

42. (new) The process according to claim 20, wherein said additional adjuvants are at least one of moisturizers and anti-foaming agents, the proportion of said adjuvants being 5 to 30% by weight.

43. (new) The process according to claim 22, wherein said at least one hydrophile polymer is karaya gum, said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect is polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate, and said at least one essential oil is a combination of camphor, menthol and pine oil.

44. (new) The process according to claim 23, wherein said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect; is a combination of silicic acid and hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin, said at least one hydrophile polymer is karaya gum, and said at least one essential oil is a combination of camphor, menthol and pine oil.